

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Hungary	REPORT	
SUBJECT	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> (1) Engineer Camp at Szentendre (2) Unidentified Military Units (3) The Hungarian Uprising	DATE DISTR.	7 February 1957
		NO. PAGES	1
		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
DATE OF INFO.		REFERENCES	
PLACE & DATE ACQ.			

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

a six-page report

on the following: (1) The Engineer Reserve Officers' Summer Camp at Szentendre, including estimations of manpower and equipment. (2) The locations of unidentified Hungarian military units and estimations of manpower therein. (3) Events during the Hungarian uprising.

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STATE	#X ARMY	#X NAVY	#X AIR	#X FBI	IAEC				
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)									

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Date: 10 January 1957

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COUNTRY: Hungary

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Engineer Reserve Officers' Summer Camp

1. [redacted] training summer camp
(Tancsics Mihaly Muszaki Tiszti Iskola Szentendre)

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- a. The training camp was subordinate to the Engineer branch of the Ministry of Defense in Budapest.
- b. The estimated strength of the student battalion was 240 students. The service company's estimated strength was 100 to 120 EM. The school staff consisted of 50 to 52 officers.
- c. In addition to Szentendre, the Danube River was used as a training area.
- d. The following major items of equipment were used by the group:
 - (1) 7 to 8 heavy "Stalinec" tractors with bulldozers attached.
 - (2) 2 machines for the digging of trenches.
 - (3) 2 scrapers (self-loading units for excavating, hauling, and spreading dirt).
 - (4) 2 cranes, each with a capacity of approximately 5 tons.
 - (5) 2 graders for shaping ditches and cutting banks.

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- (6) Miscellaneous types of supporting pontoons of heavy sheet metal or wood for alternate use as rafts or boats.
- (7) Miscellaneous prefabricated bridge material of steel and wood.
- (8) 1 pneumatic boat, 7-man capacity.
- (9) 1 pneumatic boat, 2-man capacity.
- (10) Several hundred flotation suits consisting of overalls, fins, pneumatic belts, and wood paddles. The suits are used by scouts in the reconnaissance of river banks and for the destruction of bridges.
- (11) Tank obstacles made of barbed wire, wood, and iron rails.
- (12) Pontoon-loading equipment with a trailer, possibly of Scepel or Soviet make.

[] further information concerning the names or designations of the above equipment except that they were of Soviet make. []

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Hungarian O/B Prior to November 1956

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2. [] the location of unidentified Hungarian units [] observed between 1 February and November 1956.
- a. An Engineer Brigade located at Ercsi (N 47-15, E 18-15) had an estimated strength of 2,000 and [] 200 to 300 men. It was equipped with miscellaneous heavy, medium, and small bridge-building and earth-moving equipment.
- b. Independent Artillery Division with two subordinate unidentified regiments located at Cegled (N 47-10, E 19-47); an estimated strength of 3,000 but [] actually observed 300 men; equipped with heavy, medium, and light artillery guns and several self-propelled guns.
- c. Artillery Regiment subordinate to the division above, located at Nagykoros (N 47-02, E 19-46); an estimated strength of 600 with 100 actually observed; same equipment as described in b. above.
- d. Quartermaster unit located at Taposzecsó (N 47-27, E 19-36); estimated strength of 300 to 400 with 100 observed; equipped with light and medium AA and light and heavy mortars.
- e. Armored unit located at Retsag (N 47-55, E 19-08); estimated strength of 300 to 400 men; equipped with light and T-34 tanks.
- f. Armored unit located at Diosjeno (N 47-56, E 19-02); estimated strength of 300 to 400; equipped with light and T-34 tanks.
- g. Possible Infantry Battalion located at Nagyoroszi (N 48-00, E 19-05); estimated strength of 300 with 150 actually observed; equipped with small arms.

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Soviet O/B Prior to November 1956

3. [] cursory information on unidentified Soviet units as follows:

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- a. Armored unit, larger than a regiment, located at Szekesfehérvár (N 47-12, E 18-25); equipped with T-34 tanks, light and medium anti-tank guns, and self-propelled guns.
- b. Armored unit, larger than a regiment, located at Jászberény (N 47-30, E 19-55); estimated strength of 1,400 but 500 actually observed; equipped with T-34 or JS-2 tanks.
- c. Two casernes of a possible armored division with an estimated strength of 2,500 to 3,000 and 800 actually observed; equipped with 250 to 300 T-34 tanks, an unknown number of self-propelled guns, a large number of "Stalinec" tractors, and several hundred trucks of various sizes.

Defense Preparations

4. Until August 1956 all new buildings in Budapest were required to have air raid shelters. The practice was discontinued after this time due to the extreme shortage of construction materials.

Events of October-November Uprising in Hungary

5. [] observations concerning the insurrection:

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- a. [] Ministry of Defense on 23 October. On the previous day [] university students of Budapest were planning to present a 16-point program to Imre Nagy, head of the former Hungarian government. An orderly, but sullen, crowd were marching toward Bem Square. [] the group [] proceeded to the Radio Budapest building. Some were carrying posters and chanting the slogan, "Russki, go home". The news had spread meanwhile that AVH troops had fired on and killed some of the students intending to present the program to Nagy. At approximately 2300 hours a large number of armed men and women joined the crowd, and two civilian trucks manned by civilians arrived, loaded with rifles, SMG's, and ammunition. [] a group of 35 to 40 civilians, ranging in age from 16 to 26 and including four women. This group started to attack the radio building which was being defended by 140 AVH officers and enlisted men and which was already under fire from the Freedom Fighters posted on the street or in surrounding buildings. At 0500 hours on 24 October [] group gained entrance to the building which had already been occupied by other groups of Freedom Fighters. By 0700 hours four officers of the besieged AVH group came out of the building with their hands up and carrying a white handkerchief. The crowd, infuriated by the AVH killing of women and children on the day before, opened fire on the men and killed them. At 1000 hours a group of 40 AVH officers and 30 EM came forth from the basement of the building and surrendered. These men were surrounded by armed Freedom Fighters who marched them to an unknown destination. []

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- b. On 25 October [] a crowd at the Hotel Astoria on Rakoci Ut. There were six to eight Soviet tanks and two armored personnel carriers. The tops of the tanks were occupied by Hungarian Freedom Fighters who had several Hungarian flags erected on the tanks. [] the tanks were manned by Soviet troops. A crowd of Freedom Fighters, estimated to number from 30,000 to 40,000, marched to Parliament Square with the tanks in the center. [] AVH troops open fire on the tanks. The AVH troops were posted on the roofs of buildings which were their quarters and which were located on the south side of the square. The crowd became panicky and scrambled off the tanks or were shot from them. In the confusion the alleged Soviets manning the tanks fired for several minutes on the AVH troops and then drove off into Dohani Utsa where they remained in the tanks. [] approximately 300 persons, mostly young men and women, had been killed and about 1,500 were injured, either from the tanks or from small arms. [] the participation of Soviet troops was due to ignorance on their part as to the purpose of the crowd, [] the Soviets mistook the demonstration to be one in favor of Soviet-Hungarian understanding. [] did not believe the men had intentionally deserted from the Soviet Army.
- c. On 4 November [] the Soviets had arrested Nagy. [] a large crowd of Freedom Fighters [] had been constructing roadblocks, consisting of streetcars and granite paving blocks, in the streets surrounding Cavalry Square. At about 1100 hours eight to ten Soviet T-34 tanks, which had gained entrance to the Square, opened fire on the roadblocks which proved no match for the concentrated fire.
- d. On 14 November [] near Cegled [] two unidentified Soviet armored units and one Hungarian independent artillery division were located. The Soviet camps were completely deserted except for a guard at the entrance; the Hungarian post entrance was jointly occupied by Soviet EM and Hungarian Army officers. A large artillery gun park was guarded only by Soviet troops. [] between 4 and 12 November, Soviet armored troops had surrounded the Hungarian post and a large number of unarmed Hungarian soldiers had been seen leaving the camp in groups and not under guard.
- e. On 23 November [] all the file cabinets and desks had been broken open and emptied of their contents. Co-workers, who had been eyewitnesses, told [] this had been done by Soviet troops, mostly Mongols, who had occupied the Ministry of Defense building since 4 November. In the courtyard were huge piles of burned documents. The files had contained blueprints of the Army installations described in paragraph 2d above, and prospective constructions. [] the Soviets, under instructions, immediately after their occupation of the building, systematically broke open all the offices and emptied into the courtyard and burned the contents of all the desks, cabinets, and safes. All the officers [] were officially demobilized by the Hungarian Army between 4 and 23 November

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with the exception of Col. Karoly Szuski, the commanding officer
of all three groups [redacted] Only two of
the group of civilian engineers and technicians [redacted]
were retained after thorough screening by the Kadar Government. [redacted]



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